

**The Canadian South East Asia Refugee Historical Research Project:  
Hearts of Freedom  
Management Committee Meeting  
May 3, 2019  
Peter Findlay Boardroom, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dunton Tower  
Videoconference access: <https://appear.in/heartsoffreedom>**

**SUMMARY NOTES**

**Participants:**

Allan Moscovitch  
Mike Molloy  
Colleen Lundy  
Stephanie Stobbe  
Anne Arnott  
Emily Burton  
Tri Hoang  
Dau-Thi Huynh  
Tuyet Lam  
Kien Le  
Luong Le Phan  
Chris Trainor

Staff: Mondy Lim – Media Coordinator; Ginette Thomas – Project Coordinator

Regrets: Xay Bounnapha; Charlene Elgee; Vuthy Lay; Charlie Lim; Laura Sanchini; Stephanie Stobbe

1. Review of the Agenda and Summary notes of the March 22, 2019 meeting  
There were no additions, deletions or changes
2. Report on the budget for 2019-2020 (Allan Moscovitch)
  - The Canadian Heritage 2018-2019 year-end report: we submitted the activity and expense reporting, but we still need to submit the in-kind contribution report.
  - We also submitted a report of year 1 activities to Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada, and are expecting to hear if we are granted a one-time contribution of about \$5,000 for the project.
  - Our Canadian Heritage budget for 2019-2020 is \$130,000, and we must submit an interim report to on June 30, 2019 on the activities and expenses for the first 3 months of the fiscal year.
  - We had a very busy year 1: we completed 32 interviews before year end. In year 2, we have about 70 interviews to complete, and we hope to complete the interviews in Montréal and Toronto early in the Fall.
3. Summary of meeting/workshop with the interview team (Colleen Lundy)
  - On April 13, 2019 we held a workshop with the members of the interview teams. The purpose was to give them the opportunity to share their experiences about the interview process to date, and to put forward any recommendations for improvements. In addition, we invited Brian Buckley, who shared with us the community-based experience of Project 4000, which was the collaborative sponsorship

initiative to welcome and facilitate the settlement of South East Asia refugees here in the city of Ottawa in the early 1980s.

- We learned a lot from the teams' feedback, and as a result, we divided and allocated specific areas of responsibility among the Research Committee in order to facilitate the flow of communication on specific issues.
- One topic of discussion was on interview space. For interviews based in Ottawa, we have access to a classroom that meets our needs, when it is not occupied for classes. Accessing suitable locales in Montréal and Toronto has been a difficult task. One option is the use of a suitably-sized AirBnB with sufficient common area to conduct an interview.
- In the discussion that followed, the member of the Management Committee indicated that they would explore opportunities in these two cities. A few suggestions that were put forward were to contact the McCord Museum in Montréal, as well as to contact Buddhist temples and Vietnamese associations in Montréal and Toronto.

#### 4. Video Interviews to date (Mike Molloy)

- He has reviewed each video-taped interview to date, and the results are impressive – already, they contain a lot of information and knowledge that will be invaluable for the production of the documentary film, the educational materials and the preparation of exhibits. However, the exercise of viewing and writing down the relevant information and noting the digital time stamp for key statements for each video interview has proven to be extremely time-consuming.
- As a result, we now have a new system in place to work with digitally-created sub-titles on the videos as a starting point. We are still finalizing this process, but are looking for volunteers to dedicate a few hours to this task, and we will train these volunteers to help us with the review of videos going forward.
- The goal of the review is to make sure that we get the meaning and essence of the experience as it is described in these interviews, as well as to make sure that we document what these individuals identified as being important and significant for their experience. He will be looking for people who can review and document the French interviews.
- Committee members are encouraged to look at the interviews. They are accessible by going through the website [heartsoffreedom.org](http://heartsoffreedom.org)

#### 5. Future funding update (Colleen Lundy)

- Stephanie Stobbe was not able to participate in today's meeting due to a last minute commitment.
- Colleen will follow up with Stephanie on progress with securing additional funding for interviews in Winnipeg.
- We are still exploring the project requirements for the Carleton University Future Funder program, and the conditions and obligations of including a "Donate" button on our website.
- The goal of the extra funding would be to extend the interviewing out west.

#### 6. Conferences and the web site launch (Mike Molly and Mondy Lim)

- There are 3 upcoming events where the project will be showcased:
  - The first is a presentation to staff at Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada on May 29, 2019.
  - The second is a presentation at the University of Ottawa-sponsored one day conference entitled *Humanizing Migration: Rights, refuge and responsibilities* on June 20, 2019 to celebrate World Refugee Day.
  - The third is at the International Metropolis Conference that is taking place in Ottawa from June 24-28 2019. The theme of this year's conference is *The Promise of Migration* and Hearts of Freedom will be setting up a kiosk to display highlights of the project and the interviews on an electronic screen.
- Since the website is an important part of the information that we will be sharing at these events, Committee members are asked to send us their name, affiliation and photo so that they can be represented on the website.

7. Archives: Process for interviewee materials/documents (Chris Trainor)

- This discussion is a follow-up to the issues raised at the March 22 meeting.
- He indicated how grateful he is to be involved at the outset of the project since it is important to address any issues early in the process.
- One of those issues is to ensure the proper provenance of documents and artifacts. He recommended that the interviewers let the interviewees know that they can contact Archives directly should they wish to donate any items to the Archives at Carleton. The interviewers can share the archives list that he provided at an earlier meeting. (*Copy attached*).
- The important step is to obtain sign-off from the interviewee on a specific form that confirms the release of the documents/artifact. Carleton Archives has a process in place and the resources to arrange the retrieval of the documents/artifacts from the interviewees. They have access to a trusted courier service to pick up the items.

8. Roundtable discussion:

- Colleen Lundy provided an update on the three background research papers. The first paper, on the background of Cambodian issues is already posted on the website, under Resources. Mike Molloy and Allan Moscovitch indicated that it is an excellent document. Mike suggested that it could even be used as a background document for a specific workshop on topics that affected the settlement of Cambodian refugees in Canada. The other two papers, on the background of Vietnamese issues and an analysis of Canadian media coverage during the refugee crisis, are nearing completion and will also be posted under the Resources section of the website when they are ready.
- Emily Burton confirmed that the cost for the McCord Museum was \$1,900 for 6 days should we wish to use it for interviews, and indicated that there is Best Western nearby. She also shared some ideas to think about for potential exhibitions for Hearts of Freedom. There is the “Community Presents” program that allows cultural groups to showcase their unique traditions and culture, giving the public a better understanding of our collective and distinct cultural heritages. Exhibitions run for approximately two to three months. There is also the opportunity to apply for the art space, which is a 25 ft wall space, for exhibits of photography or art. There are options that must be approached well in advance, so we would be looking at next year in May as a possible target, and May is Heritage month. Colleen indicated that if there is an interest, we could get in touch with the Curator, Dan Conlon to explore options.
- Tuyet Lam indicated that she approached Air Canada to find out if they want to participate as part of the history of this important of history in Canada, and pointed out the website to them. She also indicated that there may be a possibility to interview 2 flight attendants in Ottawa in July. There was discussion as to whether Air Canada could be approached to be a sponsor for the project by perhaps providing support for transportation to conduct western interviews. Tuyet said that she will contact Louise at Air Canada. There was also some discussion that if we develop a “donation” button, we could structure sponsor levels like “gold” and “platinum” levels where donors would receive recognition. Mondy indicated that for Air Canada, we could display their logo in the Sponsors/Partners page of our website.
- Tri Hoang mentioned that he has a lot of contacts out west and could find out about facilities in Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. We encouraged him to give them information on our project and to direct them to our website, Facebook, as well as accessing the interviews on YouTube.

9. Next meeting:

Committee members will be canvassed about their availability over the summer months.

## Hearts of Freedom – Archival Documents List

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Archives and Research Collections in the Carleton University Library is seeking to acquire archival documents related to the Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian refugees participating in the Hearts of Freedom oral history project. These documents will also enhance the Canadian Immigration Historical Society collections, also housed in Archives and Research Collections.

Items of interest for the archive include:

- Photographs
  - Country of origin
  - Early life in Canada
  - Participants and their families
- Ephemera
- Records related to immigration and resettlement
  - Transit: transit logs, tickets
  - Housing: Leases, settlement records
  - Resettlement aid: documentation from resettlement agencies, community groups, or sponsor families
- Correspondence
- Newspaper clippings and magazine articles on immigration and resettlement
- Unpublished writings on the refugee experience

We would also be willing to consider items that are not listed above, depending on the type of material and its source.

To discuss a donation further, please contact:

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